**Brief report on a field visit in Jawe and upper Gana Africa RISING research kebles in Lemo, SNNPR**

Field visit date: 8-9 Nov 2013

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Day 1 visit-

Initially, an introduction on what Africa RISING doing in Lemo site was made. The visiting team had a chance to visit the on-farm research demonstrations of faba bean, wheat, potato and forage development, and interact with the farmers and experts (Photo 1). The team members raised questions for the farmers specifically on what they have learned, challenges they confronted and their future plan for scaling the improved varieties and management practices. The initiation on trade-off analysis of the local and improved faba bean growing practice explained and the farm practices demonstrated to the team. The enset-livestock system based research idea also shared to the team members. 

1. Tef field



1. Improved wheat varieties



(c) Vetch field

Photo 1. On-farm demo visit: (a) Tef field, (b) Wheat field and (c) Vetch forage development activity

Day 2 visit-

The team members had also a chance to visit faba bean and wheat fields in Upper Gana in the second day. In addition to the on-farm demos, the team was able to see the distribution and demonstration of 18 water pumps for the AR farmers (Photo 2).



Photo 2. Water pumps distribution

The water pumps are considered as entry points that would enable farmers to use the existing water harvesting structures and grow vegetables for own consumption and income diversification. Team members also had a chance to see the different stages of processing enset (photo 3), and a high value food and cash crop in the southern regions of Ethiopia (Photo 4). The team members have realized how processing enset for various products (Kocho and Bulla) is labour intensive and a workload for women.









Photo 3. Some of the stages of processing enset for different products

The challenge on enset production particularly the disease aspect has become a serious issue for farmers (Photo 5). In the recent years the bacterial wilt disease is threatening the enset population and diversity in the Africa RISING sites and other major enset growing areas of the southern region. Some researchers and extension experts’ pin point poor management of the diseased enset plants as a major cause for wider dissemination of the disease into different areas. The bacterial wilt disease easily disseminates through farm implements, flooding and water erosion, and poor enset plant rouging practices.



Photo 4. High value food and cash crops



Photo 5. Bacterial wilt disease symptoms on enset plant

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